

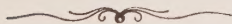
THE LETTERS
OF
ALEXANDER POPE

CONSIDERED IN A BIOGRAPHICAL
POINT OF VIEW

BY
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IN
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DEDICATED

WITH THE DEEPEST GRATITUDE AND MOST
HEART-FELT RESPECT

TO MY FORMER PROFESSOR, THE
MOST LEARNED EXPLAINER OF SHAKESPEARE,

D.^R N. DELIUS

professor at the University of Bonn

H. H. SCHMITZ.

Although a great many of Pope's letters have been entirely rewritten for publication, although a great many names have been omitted (letters to lady Mary), the dates have been changed (letter to Congreve 16th Jan. 1714—15 and letter to Jervas July 9th 1716), and one letter addressed to several persons (letter to Digby 10th of July 1724, addressed to Dr. Arbuthnot and to Mr. Caryll as well), the letters are nevertheless interesting for us with regard to the life of this excellent poet. They show us at the same time his connections and friends, his filial affection, his manly and liberal sentiments on religious toleration, and his contempt for all bad philosophers and writers. We are going to review the life of Pope, mentioning all the letters written by the poet regarding his biography.

Alexander Pope was born in the year of the memorable revolution of 1688. A great many circumstances connected with Pope's history have been the subject of eager discussion. As to the day of his birth one author mentions the 8th of June 1688, another the 21st of May etc. Pope himself perplexes this question still more by a passage in one of his letters to his friend Gray concerning the death of Mr. Congreve. At the end of that letter he says: *Adieu! this is my birthday*. This letter bears no date, but as Congreve died on the 19th of January 1728, it is most probable that Pope's birthday was at the end of January or beginning of February.

When Lord Hervey and Lady Mary indited on him the verses containing the following couplet:

«Whilst none thy crabbed numbers can endure»

Hard as thy heart and as thy birth obscure:

the poet wrote a letter inscribed «to a noble Lord» in which he says: *«but my father had the honour in one instance to resemble you, for he was a younger brother etc further on he says: but as to my father, I could assure you, my Lord, that he was no mechanic (neither a hatter, nor, which might please your Lordship yet better, a cobbler, but, in truth, of a very tolerable family; and my mother of an ancient one, as well born and educated as that lady, whom your Lordship made choice of, to be the mother of your own children a. s. f.* In a note on his «Epistle to Arbuthnot» Pope states, that his father was of a gentleman's family in Oxfordshire. Mr. Pollinger, a relation of Pope, communicates to Dr. Bolton, that the author's father went to Lisbon, where he became a Roman catholic, which is very probable, as the poet, in one of his letters to Atterbury, says that his father's library consisted wholly of books of controversial divinity. Pope stated himself that his mother was the daughter of William Turner Esquire of York, and in one of his letters to Swift, dated the 29th of March, he says, that the preceding day was her birthday. In one of his letters he says that he never had a sister, but he had a halfsister; his father calls her in his will: my dear daughter Magdalen.

Among the early friends of the poet were Wycherly, Walsh, Garth, Lansdowne, Congreve and Cromwell, a gentleman of fortune, and a relation of the protector. Cromwell was a bachelor, and spent his time generally in London. From being in his youth so much with men of the world, Pope had become more or less one of them, and the tone of public morality was low at

that time, what is to be seen by his letter to Cromwell, dated March 18th 1708: *Yet I guess, he says, you will expect me to recant this expression, when I tell you that Sappho (by which heathenish name you have cristined a very orthodox lady) did not accompany me in the country. Well, you have your lady in the town still, and I have my heart in the country still — I would love my friends, as my mistress, without ceremony; and hope a little rough usage sometimes may not be more displeasing to the one, than it is to the other. If you have any curiosity to know in what manner I live or, rather lose a life, Martial will inform you in one line:*

Prandeo, potō, cano, ludo, lego, coeno, quiesco.

Every day with me is litterally another yesterday, for it is exactly the same: it has the same business, which is poetry, and the same pleasure, which is idleness etc. In another letter of the 25th of April 1708 Pope speaks again about this Sappho, probably a lady of Berkshire Mrs. Nelson and tells him that she came to see him. Another letter, dated April the 10th 1710 contains a few characteristic passages about the interior of Binfield and about Pope himself. Sir—I had written to you sooner, but I made some scruple of sending profane things to you in holy week. Besides our family would have been scandalised to see me write, who take it for granted I write nothing but ungodly verses, and they say here so many prayers that I can make but few poems. For in this point of praying I am an occasional conformist. So, just as I am drunk or scandalous in town according to my company, I am for the same reason good and godly here. I assure you, I am looked upon in the neighbourhood for a very sober, well disposed person; no great hunter, indeed, but a great esteemer of the noble sport, and only unhappy in my want of constitution for that and drinking. In a letter to his friend Caryll the

nephew of the Secretary of Queen Anne, chiefly written in defence of his «*Essay on Criticism*,» in which, with his praises of Erasmus and the censure of the monks, he had provoked the members of the Catholic church, he shows his liberal and tolerant sentiments on the subject of religion, placing all his glory in politics as well as in religion in moderation. The letter runs thus: *I have ever believed the best piece of service one would do to our religion, was openly to express our detestation and scorn of all those mean artifices and «piae fraudes», which it stands so little in need of, and which have laid it under so great a scandal among its enemies. Nothing has been so much a scarecrow to them, as that too peremptory and uncharitable assertion of an utter impossibility of salvation to all but ourselves a. s. f.*

In a letter to Martha Blount he says on the subject of Arabella Fermors' marriage: *My acquaintance runs so much in an Anti-Catholic channel, that it was but the other day I heard of Mrs. Fermors' being actually married.* In another letter to Miss Blount he gives again several characteristic passages about himself: *Every one, he writes, values Mr. Pope, but every one for another reason. One for his adherence to the Catholic faith, another for his neglect of popish superstition, one for his grave behaviour, another for his whimsicalness. Mr. Tidcombe for his pretty atheistical jests; Mr. Caryll for his moral and Christian sentences.*

Another friend of Pope was Steele, who, knowing his genius, cultivated his acquaintance very much. In several of his letters to this gentleman the poet expresses quite other sentiments, than in those addressed to Henry Cromwell.

In that of the 15th of July 1712 he speaks about the unfortunate and weak construction of his body etc. he says, *that sickness is a sort of old age: it teaches*

us a diffidence in our earthly state, and inspires us with the thoughts of a future etc.; farther on he continues: *But wisdom is the grey hair to men, and an unspotted life is old age etc.* It is quite possible and even probable that this was only a literary exercise, to which he attached Steele's name afterwards. Pope, being a Catholic, had a great many friends among the opulent, catholic families in the country. With the family of Mr. Lister Blount he was very intimate. There was passion enough in his intercourse with the daughters of this gentleman, especially with the eldest Theresa, but his affections were finally and irrevocably centred in Martha. His acquaintance with the ladies gradually proceeded to intimacy, then a warmer feeling, and some extravagant gallantry succeeded, after which friendship again took its place, which was never dissolved with Martha. The exact date, at which Pope's intimacy with Miss Blount began has not been ascertained.

From a letter of Pope's mother it seems to have begun before the summer 1710. Another letter of Pope seems to indicate the year 1707, when Theresa and Pope were in their nineteenth year, and Martha was seventeen. Although the earliest of his existing letters to both sisters bears the date of 1712, it is sure that he was already before acquainted with them. In a letter of the 25th of May 1712 the poet writes to Martha: Madam — *At last I do myself the honour to send you the «Rape of the Lock» etc.... our virtue will sooner be overthrown by one glance of your eyes than by all the wicked poets can write in one age.* In another letter to Theresa Blount he says: *A month ago I should have laughed at any one, who had told me my heart would be perpetually beating for a lady that was thirty miles off from me etc.* This letter was probably written before the death of Mr. Lister Blount in June 1710.

Though Pope, after the coronation of George I in Sept. 1714, enchanted by her letters of the 18th and 24th of September, wrote to Martha Blount that he was resolved to break with her sister, over whom she had entirely gained the conquest, and that he would take the first opportunity of sending back all her letters, it is known, that they were friends for several years afterwards. After the marriage of her brother in 1715 the sisters lived chiefly in London, and since that time the poet's correspondence with them became frequent and confidential: *You will both injure me very much*, he writes to them, *if you do not think me a truer friend than ever any romantic lover, or any imitator of their style would be. I am one of those unambitious people, who will love forty years hence, when your eyes begin to twinkle in a retirement etc.*

In another letter addressed to the young ladies Bolton street he says openly that he loves them, but that he did not intend, to derange them, as he thought that their regard was only friendship and esteem. *Let me open my whole heart to you*, he says, *I have sometimes found myself inclined to be in love with you, and as I have reason to know from your temper and conduct, how miserably I should be used in that circumstance, it is worth my while to avoid it etc.* Another letter contains the following passage about the same subject: *You will please to consider that my coming or not is a thing indifferent to both of you. But, God knows, it is far otherwise to me with respect to one of you a. s. f.*

However his attachment to both sisters may be explained, it seems, that it was an innocent one, and it is nearly impossible, that a man of honour would have corrupted the daughters of a respectable family, and that young ladies of a first rate education would have disgraced themselves by dishonourable conduct.

The poet took always a great interest in the money-affairs of the young ladies, as is to be seen in the correspondence with Fortescue. Martha, who remained his intimate friend till his death, received one thousand pounds and a great many other things, which he had bequeathed to her, *out of a sincere regard and a long friendship*. Pope cherished in general not only distinction, but also generous feelings, which he developed in acts of true kindness and real assistance. It appears from his correspondence of the month of May 1712 that he was interested in the fortune of another lady, whose name is not known, and who is supposed to be the object of the «*Elegy to the Memory of an Unfortunate lady.*» Though the real heroine of the poem is not known, so much is sure that the lady alluded to in the correspondence under the name of Mrs. W. was Mrs. Weston, and that the case of this lady was warmly taken up by the poet. Afterwards in a letter of the 7th of September 1733 he speaks again about this lady, and mentions that he had dreamt all night of a Lady, who dwelt a little more than perhaps was right in his spirits, and who had been ill-used by her sister. Another lady, in whom the poet took a great interest, was a Mrs. Cape, a relation of Mr. Caryll; in his correspondence he styles her the «Unhappy lady» (letter to Caryll). —

Pope's father wanted him to become an artist, and in the beginning of 1713 the poet placed himself under Charles Jervas, better known as the translator of Don Quixote than as a painter, but being near sighted, and having weak eyes, his productions in painting were not superior. On the 23^d of August he writes to Gay: *I have been near a week in London where I am likely to remain till I become, by Mr. Jervas's help «elegans formarum spectator.» I begin to discover beauties that were*

till now imperceptible to me a. s. f. It became soon evident to Pope that painting was not his profession, and that it was necessary to do something, as he by all his poetry hitherto had not gained a hundred pounds. He met Swift at the time, when he was recalled to England, to arbitrate between Harley and Bolingbroke. The 8th of Dec. 1713 he wrote a letter full of satire and wit to the dean, and this letter in which he acknowledges warmly the obligations he has to him, was chiefly the cause of introductions to the Earl of Oxford, Bolingbroke, Harcourt and the other leading Tories, and of Swifts endeavours to procure him subscribers for the «*Translation of the Iliad.*» At the end of the letter he tells Swift that he had finished the «*Rape of the Lock.*»

Pope was extremely economical in using paper even so that he wrote his «*translations of Homer*» on the backs of letters addressed to him and to his father. Sometimes he used his housebills and fragments of paper on which he had drawn architectural sketches and plans. On one occasion, when he sent fruit to Miss Blounts, he says in his letter: «*Pray return sealed up, by the bearer every single bit of paper that wraps them up, for they are the only copies of that part of Homer a. s. f.*» To Fortescue Master of the Rolls he writes: *Pray send me some paper, it is all I can get by you men in place.*» Pope considered Addison one of his best friends and he always liked to retain his friendship, but as Addison had done him several times disservice before, and as he had lately said that Tickells translation of Homer was better than his, he began to get angry, and on the 15th of July 1715 he wrote to Craggs saying that *Tickell, the humblest slave, that Addison had, translated Homer to gratify the inordinate desires of one man only, and that this man, a great Turk in poetry, would never bear a brother on the throne, and that he had a set of mutes,*

noddlers, winkers and whisperers, whose business it was to strangle all other offsprings of wit in their birth. He wrote also a satyre on Addison, but the only reply and revenge of the latter was, his praise of the *translation of Homer.*

Shortly after the publication of *Homer* Pope went to Oxford on horseback; and was accompanied by his bookseller Bernard Lintot, who overtook him in the Windsor-Forest. He wrote a most pleasant and humorous letter about this journey to the Earl of Burlington, whose steed he rode on the way. To the young ladies at Mapledurham he wrote also about it, though not in such a pleasant way as to Lord Burlington. On his way he visited also Blenheim and in one of his letters he gives a magnificent description of the seat of the Duke of Marlborough.

On the 20th of April 1716 Pope removed from Binsfield to Chiswick; on the following day he wrote about this to his friend Mr. Edward Blount of Devonshire. To Martha Blount he addresses also a letter about this removal, and speaking about Lord Burlington he says: *«We are to walk, ride, ramble, dine, drink and lie together.»*

Pope's father died on the 23th of October 1717 and was buried three days afterwards. The poet wrote to Miss M. Blount on the following day a letter, in which he expresses the greatest grief and love at the same time. After the death of his father bishop Atterbury wrote a letter to Pope, in which he condoles with him and desires him to become a protestant. But the latter tells him in a letter of the 20th of Nov, 1717 *that, though his father is dead, his mother is still alive (genitrix est mihi), and that he does not like to grieve her, in order to make his own life happier, that he esteems the Catholic religion as much as the protestant, and that the protestants would*

gain little glory by his conversion. At the end of the letter he writes: *In a word the things I have always wished to see are, not a Roman Catholic, or a French Catholic, or a Spanish Catholic, but a true Catholic, and not a king of Whigs, or a king of Tories, but a king of England.* These lines explain clearly his sentiments about religion and politics.

To his friend Edward Blount he writes on the 27th of Nov. 1717 about the small fortune left to him by his father. Some time after the death of his father the poet removed from Chiswick to Twickenham, where he spent the remainder of his life; to his friend Jervas, at that time in Ireland, he addressed a letter on the 12th of Dec. 1718 containing the following lines: *At last the gods and fate have fixed me on the borders of the Thames in the districts of Richmond and Twickenham. It is here I have passed an entire year of my life without any fixed abode in London, or more than casting a transitory glance for a day or two at most in a month at the pomps of the town.*

At Twickenham Pope did very much for the embellishment of his garden, above all for the construction of a subterraneous passage, what he called grotto; and it appears, according to a letter of the 8th of Oct. 1740 to Dr. Oliver at Bath, that he was occupied with his work nearly till his death; in a letter of the 2^d of June 1725 to Edward Blount, he gives a splendid description of this grotto.

In the year 1714 Pope had made, among a great many other ones, the acquaintance of Lady Mary Wortley Montagne, who had recently quitted her retirement of Warnecliffe. Pope met her very often in the most brilliant circles of London, and it seems according to his correspondence, that he loved her very much, even to

such an extent, that he forgot for some time Theresa and Martha Blount. In a letter, written in August 1716, he expresses his extreme grief about her departure to Constantinople, whither she accompanied her husband, ambassador to the Porte. In 1717 he sends her the collected edition of his works and in June 1718, when Mr. Wortley was recalled from his foreign embassy, he communicates her his intention to meet her in Italy and to accompany her home; a few months afterwards he wrote her on the same subject a letter, which she did not receive. In the month of November, when at Stanton Harcourt diligently occupied with his *translation of Homer*, he addressed her a letter of congratulation, welcoming her to her native country, giving at the same time a splendid description of the old gothic mansion in which he lived. But afterwards his love or admiration for the lady was turned into hatred and contempt; on the 15th of September he wrote her the last letter from Circencester. Lady Mary gave several explanations of the quarrel; Pope himself says in a letter to a Noble Lord: Nov. 30 1733, that he had voluntarily without any misunderstanding withdrawn from the society of Lady Mary and that of her friend Lord Hervey, because they had too much wit for him, and could do with their wits many things, which he could not do with his.

In the month of August 1720 the poet was involved in money-affairs which appears from letters addressed to Lady Mary Martha Blount and Atterbury. On the 2^d of March 1721 he addresses to James Eckershall a letter, in which he asks him for lottery-orders.

Among other friends, who either died, like Parnell, Garth, Row, or left England, like Swift, Peterborough, Pope lost Atterbury to whom he was very much attached, which appears chiefly from his letter of the 20th of April 1723, and his farewell-letter of the 2^d of May

1723. Atterbury was banished on charge of treasonable correspondence with the Pretender, and left England in the month of Sept. 1723.

While Pope was occupied with the translation of Homer and his *edition of Shakespeare*, he corresponded with a young lady, whose name is not known yet. This lady, to whom he addressed 12 letters written in a very complimentary style, resided in Herfordshire, wrote occasionally verses, and was a friend of Mrs. Howard. Pope said himself that *he was so mad with the idea of her as to steal her picture and pass whole days in sitting before it*. He sent her a copy of his poem: «*To a Lady on her birthday*» 1723 and proposed to her to compose a fairy tale, saying that he had long an inclination to compose one. But this lady, who was probably Judith Cowper, was prevented from doing this by the death of her uncle and by her marriage to Martin Madan on the 7th of Dec. 1723. About this time Pope left off corresponding with her.

Nearly about the same time Pope visited his friend Robert Digby, with whom he had corresponded for some years, and in a letter to Martha Blount he describes the picturesque character of the fine old house and grounds of Sherborne castle. Two letters addressed to Digby contain beautiful sketches of spring and autumn.—At the departure of Atterbury, Bolingbroke arrived, having obtained the royal pardon, and when he had recovered his family inheritance, he went often to Twickenham, and Pope spent much of his time at Battersea or at Dawley, a property of Bolingbroke.—By the political direction of the latter Pope was led more into opposition than he liked, as he writes to Swift on the 12th of January 1723—24.—In the midst of his diligence and difficult task the poet was at once troubled by reports injurious to the reputation of his beloved Martha as well as to him-

self. In a letter of the 25th of Dec. 1725, addressed to his friend Mr. Caryll, the godfather of Martha, he says: *A very confident asseveration has been made, which has spread over the town, that your goddaughter, Miss Patty and I, lived two or three years in a manner that was reported to you as giving scandal to many.* Alledging that his friendship for the lady had been always a virtuous and sincere one, he concludes saying: «*God is my witness I am as much a friend to her soul as to her body; the good qualities of the former made me her friend etc.*»—About the hatred of Gibbon and Cibber against himself he speaks in a letter of 1725 to Swift.

As to the «Miscellany» he writes to the dean in march 1725: «*Our Miscellany (the third volume) is now quite printed. I am prodigiously pleased with this joint volume, in which, methinks, we look like friends side by side, serious and merry by turns conversing interchangeably, and walking down hand in hand to posterity etc.*» Letters of the 14th of January, 8th of March, 22^d of March and 9th of Nov. 1728, written to the publisher Motte about the Miscellanies, show that Pope was not only a good poet, but also an excellent man of business.

When Motte was occupied with the publication of the Miscellanies, he expected, as appears from letters of Pope, another poem, which was most probably the «*Dunciad*», but Pope selected another publisher, and this remarkable work was printed for Dodd and sold by Curlls in May 1728. When four editions in an imperfect form had been issued, Pope wrote to Swift on the 28th of June 1728. *The Dunciad is going to be printed, in all pomp, with the inscription which makes me proudest; it will be attended with proeme, prolegomena, testimonia scriptorum, index authorum and notes variorum* and really in April 1729 appeared the *enlarged Dunciad*. After the publication of the *Dunciad* a great many lam-

poons were written about Pope, which the latter got all bound together by Tonson, who lettered them «Libels on Pope and Libels on Pope and Swift.»

The first part of the «*Essay on Man*» was published anonymous, and it seems that even Swift, the poets best friend did not recognise it. Pope writes thus to him on the 15th Sept. 1734: «*I know your hand, though you did not know mine in the Essay on Man. I beg your pardon for not telling you, as I should, had you been in England; but no secret can cross your Irish sea, and every clerk in the post-office had known it. I fancy, though you lost sight of me in the first of those Essays, you saw me in the second.*» About the same time the poet announces to Swift the death of his beloved friend Gay. A great many letters, written in that time to Fortescue as well as to others, show the quarrel he had with that Lady, whom he had loved once with such a great passion; in one he requests even Fortescue to caution his friend Walpole against Lady Mary.

Pope's mother died on the 7th of June 1733. The same day he addresses a short note to Fortescue in which he expresses his extreme grief, and in a letter of the 10th of June he requests Richardson to come to Twickenham and take the portrait of his departed parent. *I thank God, he says, her death was as easy as her life was innocent....It would afford the finest image of a saint expired that painting ever drew etc.* After the death of his mother the poet became uneasy and commenced to visit his friends. In Sept. 1733 he was at Lord Bathurst's and writes thus to Martha Blount: «*You cannot think how melancholy this place makes me. Every part of it puts me in mind poor Mr. Gay and another friend who is near dead and quite lost to us, Dr. Swift. I really can find no enjoyment in the place, the same sort of uneasiness as I find at Twickenham, whenever I pass my*

mothers room etc. As to the *first edition* of «Pope's letters», it is nearly quite sure that he was the cause of their publication, and that he was very well connected with Mr. P. S. and R. S., two gentlemen who offered the manuscripts to Curll. In this edition as well as that published by himself a great many dates or names are changed or omitted. There are no letters which prove this, but it is known at least by a letter addressed to Fortescue that he favoured a *surreptitious edition* by Cooper.

The 25th of August 1735 Pope was at Bevis-Mount, the seat of Lord Petersborough. In a letter written on the same day he gives us a splendid description of the state of that remarkable nobleman, who died shortly afterwards.

During the summer and autumn 1737 Pope travelled about, but he was not idle, what is proved by his publications of that year. In a letter to his friend Richardson he says *that he had been in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, and that he would be back at Twickenham, and that he hoped to see him at Lord Cornbury's etc.* On the 17th of May 1739 he writes to Swift and speaks about their friends whose number is already lessened by death. He says that Bolingbroke has the whole forest at his command with the kings stables and dogs, that Jervas has returned from Rome and Naples etc. Afterwards he speaks of himself: *You ask me, he says, how I am at Court. The prince shows me a distinction beyond any merit, I have received some presents from him for my garden; the ministers rail at me; the Duchess of Marlborough makes a great court to me. There is a Lord Polwarth, a Mr. Murray and one or two more, with whom I would never fear to hold out against all the corruption of the world. I have written but ten lines, which I will send to you, they are an insertion to the*

next «new edition of the Dunciad.» The mornings are my life, in the evenings I am stupid enough. Lord Bathurst is still my constant friend and yours. Mr. Pulteney has no country-seat and in town I see him seldom. In the summer I ramble generally for a month to Lord Cobhams, the Bath, or elsewhere. At the end of the letter he remarks that he would pay to Swift and Bolingbroke a visit, but that he could not on account of his weak breast. In this letter Pope had omitted his new friend Warburton, a man indirectly indebted to him for his fame and fortune. Warburton had made a defence of Pope's «Essay on Man» against an attack by Mr. de Crousaz, the philosophic professor of Lausanne. Pope wrote to him, acknowledging his good services in a very flattering style.

In the year 1739 Pope was at the Hot Wells of Bristol. To Martha Blount he writes a letter giving her a description of the place, and at the end he expresses his desire to hear of her.

According to the advice of Warburton the poet commenced in the year 1741 a *fourth book of the Dunciad*. Nearly about the same time the doctor-degree was offered to him as well as to Warburton; but Warburton did not get it on account of hostilities, and the Poet would not take his without his friend. In a letter to Warburton he says: *If I can prevail on myself to complete the Dunciad, it will be published at the same time with a general edition of all my verses... We shall take our degree together in fame, whatever we do at the University; and I tell you once more I will not have it there without you.* It is amusing to find that Pope, though working diligently for his new *Dunciad*, writes a letter to the Earl of Marchmont (10th of Oct. 1841) saying that he would publish no more in his lifetime, and that he had no desire of fame, though his self-love is well

known; at the end he says that he is going to Bath. About the same time he invites Warburton to join him there at Mr. Allens house, the latter came and stopped till the 4th book of the «*Dunciad*» was completed. As Cibber had attacked him, Pope changed the whole *Dunciad* and made Cibber hero of it instead of Theobald. In a letter of the 27th of Nov. 1742 he asks Warburton to be the editor of this *new edition of the Dunciad*, and to own some of the graver notes. The 24th of March 1743 he expresses his desire to see published *Warburton's edition of the rest of the «Epistles»* and the «*Essay on Criticism.*»

During the summer of the year 1743 Pope was again at Bath. He went to Prior Park and invited Martha to meet him there. Mrs. Allen and Martha had a quarrel. Pope got angry, and went away, and left Martha Blount behind. Martha addressed a letter to him telling that she was not well, that she was treated very badly in the house of Mr. Allen, that even Warburton took no notice of her, and that she intended to leave the house.

Pope answered her immediately, desired her to quit the house, and expressed his astonishment and grief that she was still there, and implored her to leave them without a word etc. Notwithstanding this passionate letter Pope, Mr. Allen and Warburton became again friends. Warburton helped the poet in the edition of his works, and the latter overloaded him with compliments in his letters. *You have*, he wrote, *not only monthly but weekly loaded me with favours of that kind, which are most acceptable to authors* etc. In another letter he writes that he is prevented by his malady from working, but that he had already revised the papers on the «*Use of Riches,*» that he about seven days ago was taken with so violent a fit at Battersea, that his friends Lord M.

and Lord B. sent for present help to the surgeon, and that bleeding saved his life.

On the 3th of November 1743 he wrote from Battersea to his printer Bowyer a note, which shows his care for his works even in his last days.

After the poet had made his will, he made, though always sick and feeble, still visits to Battersea, and in a letter dated Sunday night, Twickenham, he announces his friends Bolingbroke and Marchmont his intention to see them there.

In the beginnig of the year 1744, when the French were quite near London, and all the Catholics were prohibited from appearing within ten miles of London, Mr. Allen went to Twickenham (22^d of March).

About the same time Pope writes to Martha B., and describes the visit of Mr. Allen and his attempt to clear up the misunderstanding at Prior Park. At the end of that letter, which is probably the last written to Martha, he shows that he took always the greatest care for the affairs of Martha, and that he loved her till his death upon «unalterable principles.» The same interest for Martha he shows in all letters to Fortescue.

In letters addressed to Marchmont, Bolingbroke, Richardson (26th of March 1744) and to Warburton (in April 1744), he expresses his attachment to all of them, speaks about his illness and his discontent not to be able to see them.

Even till his death (30th of May 1744) Pope had always expressed his greatest care and interest for his works, and even in his last letter to his friend Warburton he speaks about the printing of the *comment on the Use of Riches.*» Three weeks before his death he sent copies of his «*Ethic Epistles*» as presents to his friends.

